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**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

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**RON CURRY**  
SECRETARY

**DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE**  
DEPUTY SECRETARY

**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 04-15**

**NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**HAZARDOUS WASTE BUREAU**  
**Santa Fe, New Mexico**  
**October 8, 2004**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**  
**AND OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING**

**INTENT TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHEMICAL WASTE LANDFILL**  
**CLOSURE PLAN**  
**SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORIES, EPA ID NO. NM5890110518**

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) proposes, pending public input, to approve an amendment to the Sandia National Laboratories' (SNL) Chemical Waste Landfill Closure Plan. SNL is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), is co-operated by the DOE and Sandia Corporation (Permittees), and is located on Kirtland Air Force Base, south of Albuquerque in Bernalillo County. The Permittees are located at the following addresses: SNL, 1515 Eubank SE, Albuquerque, NM, 87123; and NNSA/DOE, Sandia Site Office, KAFB-East, Pennsylvania & H Street, Albuquerque, NM 87116. The Permittee's primary contact for this action is Mr. John Gould, NNSA/Sandia Site Office, DOE, at P. O. Box 5400, Albuquerque, NM 87185.

SNL, in operation since 1945, is engaged in research and development of conventional and nuclear weapons, alternative energy sources and a variety of national security related research and development. As a result of these activities, SNL generates hazardous, radioactive, mixed (waste containing both hazardous and radioactive components) and solid wastes. From 1962 to 1988, SNL disposed of hazardous, radioactive, mixed, and solid wastes at the Chemical Waste Landfill (CWL). The CWL is currently undergoing closure that has included investigation of releases, excavation of the landfill contents, vapor extraction of the vadose zone, and ground-water monitoring.

If approved, the proposed amendment to the CWL Closure Plan would eliminate monitoring well, CWL-MW2A, from the ground-water monitoring well network. The well is currently not useable for ground-water sampling due to damage to the well casing and plugging of the well screen with debris; consequently, the well has been formally plugged and abandoned. The remaining ground-water monitoring well network includes two hydraulically upgradient wells

and nine downgradient wells. The downgradient wells include four that are screened across the water table, similar to that of CWL-MW2A, and five wells having deeper well-screen completions. The shallower wells include CWL-MW2U, located approximately 70 feet cross-gradient of the former CWL-MW2A location and CWL-MW6U, located 150 feet downgradient of the former CWL-MW2A location. Given the current status of the CWL following the landfill excavation and vapor extraction projects, the NMED believes that the remaining monitoring well network is sufficient for protection of human health and the environment. In addition, the remaining monitoring well network will meet the post-closure ground-water monitoring requirements under the New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations at 20.4.1.500 NMAC (incorporating 40 CFR 264.118, 40 CFR 264.95 and 40 CFR 264.97).

### **PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD**

The Administrative Record for this proposed action consists of the Closure Plan, the Closure Plan amendment request and related documents and referenced supporting documentation. The Administrative Record may be reviewed at the following locations during the public comment period:

NMED - Hazardous Waste Bureau  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505-6303  
(505) 428-2500  
Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A copy of the CWL Closure Plan amendment request is also available on the NMED website at [www.nmenv.state.nm.us/HWB/snlperm.html](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/HWB/snlperm.html) under Chemical Waste Landfill. To obtain a copy of the Administrative Record or a portion thereof please contact Ms. Pam Allen at (505) 428-2500, or at the address below, for copying charges.

The 30-day public comment period begins on **October 8, 2004** and ends on **November 7, 2004**. Any person who wishes to comment on this action or request a public hearing should submit written or e-mail comments with the commenter's name and address to the address below. Only comments or hearing requests received on or before **5:00 p.m. November 7, 2004** will be considered.

John E. Kielsing, Program Manager  
Hazardous Waste Bureau - New Mexico Environment Department  
2905 Rodeo Park Drive East, Building 1  
Santa Fe, NM 87505-6303

Ref: SNL Chemical Waste Landfill-MW2A Abandonment  
e-mail: [hazardous\\_waste\\_comment@nmenv.state.nm.us](mailto:hazardous_waste_comment@nmenv.state.nm.us)

Written comments must be based on the information available for review and include, to the extent practicable, all referenced factual materials. Documents in the Administrative Record need not be re-submitted if expressly referenced by the commenter. Requests for a public hearing shall provide: (1) a clear and concise factual statement of the nature and scope of the

interest of the person requesting the hearing; (2) the name and address of all persons whom the requestor represents; (3) a statement of any objections to the proposed Closure Plan amendment; and (4) a statement of the issues which the commenter proposes to raise for consideration at the hearing. NMED will provide a 30-day notice of a public hearing, if a hearing is scheduled.

All written comments submitted will be considered in formulating a final decision and may result in NMED modifying or disapproving the Closure Plan amendment request. NMED will respond in writing to all significant public comments. This response will specify which provisions, if any, of the Closure Plan amendment have been changed in the final decision and the reasons for the change, and will describe and respond to all public comments. All persons who submit written comments or who request notification in writing will be notified of the decision by mail. NMED's responses to comments will also be posted on the NMED website.

NMED will provide to DOE and Sandia by mail a copy of the Closure Plan amendment and a detailed written statement of reasons for any modifications or disapproval. The final decision will constitute a final agency decision and may be appealed as provided by the HWA.

#### **ARRANGEMENTS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Any person with a disability requiring assistance or auxiliary aid to participate in this process should contact Judy Bentley, NMED, Room N-4030, P.O. Box 26110, 1190 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87502-6110, phone number 505-827-2580. TDD or TDY users please access Ms. Bentley's number via the New Mexico Relay Network. Albuquerque users may access Ms. Bentley's number at 505-275-7333 or 800-659-1779.